

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILLS 5669 & 5727

**House Committee on Senior Health, Security & Retirement
February 19, 2008**

The Alzheimer's Association is pleased to offer its support of both House Bill 5669 and 5727 being considered here today. We are pleased with the legislature's interest in protecting vulnerable adults from exploitation and abuse, including those with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. We were very supportive of the recommendations of the Elder Abuse Task Force and believe that these legislative measures are needed and appropriate.

People with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia are particularly vulnerable to being exploited. Memory loss and paranoia, symptoms of the disease, can make it difficult to discover when abuse or exploitation is occurring. It is therefore very important that third party observers be allowed to bring forward allegations and complaints that will be acted on by the court. It is equally important that those who would prey upon our elderly and most vulnerable in society be punished for doing so and not in any way reap financial benefit from their actions.

Please give strong consideration to reporting these two bills favorably out of committee. If we can provide additional information, statistics or personal stories in support of these bills, we will be happy to do so. Please feel free to contact the Alzheimer's Association's state public policy coordinator, Sara Duris, for further input.
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